

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05289 250004Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 /075 W

-----081976 250006Z /64

P R 140943Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4726

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS TREATMENT OF KIM HYONG-UK'S TESTIMONY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REFS: SEOUL 5230 (DTG 230914Z JUN 77)

1. ON JUNE 23 AND 24 ALL KOREAN NEWSPAPERS GAVE EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED COVERAGE TO TESTIMONY GIVEN BY KIM HYONG-UK, FORMER (1963-69) DIRECTOR OF KOREAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (KCIA), BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. SUBHEADLINES BEAR ON VARIOUS ASPECTS KIM'S TESTIMONY SUCH AS/ PAK TONG-SON CASE, REALTIONS WITH UNIFICATION CHURCH, RELATIONS WITH KIM HAN-JO, KIM TAE-JUNG CASE, KOREAN ISSUES RESEARCH INSTITUTE, OPPOSITION TO KOREA-JAPAN TREATY, EAST BERLIN CASE, THIRD-TERM CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, WHY I LEFT KOREA, AND ADMONITIONS TO RETURN. SMALLER COMPANION PIECES DETAILED SCENES IN SENATE GALLERIES.

2. FROM AFTERNOON OF JUNE 23, PAPERS ALSO RAN DENUNCIATION

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OF "TRAITOR" KIM BY SPOKESMAN OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION REFERRING TO KIM'S "SHAMELESSNESS" AND ASSERTING "NO KOREAN BELIEVES HIM." OTHER ARTICLES NOTED HEAVY U.S. MEDIA COVERAGE AND STATEMENT FROM JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE THAT GOJ MIGHT SEND OFFICIALS TO U.S. TO MEET KIM AND DISCUSS HIS ASSERTIONS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO EDITORIALS SO FAR.

3. COMMENT: MOST KOREANS WERE AT FIRST SURPRISED BY THE FRANK, DETAILED COVERAGE LOCAL MEDIA IS GIVING KIM'S TESTIMONY. MORE POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED KOREANS QUICKLY SAW THE POINT HOWEVER AND ARE ATTRIBUTING ROKG LICENSE TO THE MEDIA ON THIS ISSUE TO MACHAVELLIAN ASTUTENSESS AT THE BLUE HOUSE IN SEIZING A MAGNIFICENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEFUSE DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPACT OF "KOREAGATE" INVESTIGATION. KIM HYONG-UK IS SO THOROUGHLY UNSAVORY IN THE EYES OF THE KOREAN PUBLIC, INCLUDING THE OPPOSITION, THAT LITTLE HE COULD SAY WOULD CARRY MUCH WEIGHT WITH PEOPLE HERE. OUR OWN BIO FILES DEPICT HIM AS TOUGH, NOT TOO BRIGHT, OPPORTUNIST. AT THE SAME TIME, IF THE KOREAN PUBLIC COULD BE MADE TO PERCEIVE THAT "EVIDENCE IS BASED ON TESTIMONY OF A KIM HYONG-UK, THEY MIGHT TEND TO DISCOUNT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE INVESTIGATION AS A WHOLE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL05289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770227-0484
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 5230
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2157039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN PRESS TREATMENT OF KIM HYONG-UK'S TESTIMONY CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, KS, US, KCIA, (KIM HYONG-UK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ac2417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009